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ages of Martin Pring, his successor in command of the East Indian fleet, or learn of the work of William Baffin in the tropics. Here he can investigate the pioneer missionary work of the Rev. Patrick Copland, who was also to collect money in the East for a free school in Virginia, or get indication of the origin of the quarrel between Sir Thomas Smyth and Lord Robert Rich, which was later to lead to the election of Sir Edwin Sandys as Treasurer of the Virginia Company. Thus are made clear both the varied interests and the unity of British expansion in the early seventeenth century.

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

La Colonisation Hollandaise à Java: ses Antécédents, ses Caractères Distinctifs. Par PIERRE GONNAUD. (Paris: Augustin Challamel. 1905. Pp. 606.)

APPEARING in the series of Paris doctoral theses in which the early work of many of the best French scholars has been published, to which we owe important books by Seignobos, Langlois, Funck-Brentano, Masson and many others, this large volume rouses keen anticipation in the mind of anyone interested in the special field it covers. The author promises in his preface to fill a gap which he conceives to exist in the sources of our information on Java, by writing not as a naturalist nor as a historian, but as a student of colonial science, and by describing the essential features of the evolution of Java as a European colony.

He devotes the first hundred pages to a physical description of the island, covering its geology, topography, climate and natural resources. The description runs into minute and tedious detail. It is not interesting, and it adds little to what can be gained from Junghuhn and the third volume of Veth. With all its faults, however, it is the best part of the book. The author may be a good geographer; he may possibly be an adept in the mysteries of the "colonial science" of the day. He certainly is not a historian; and the bulk of his book, which is historical in form, would never have been written, or would have been written very differently, if he had been trained in the French historical school.

In the hundred pages devoted to the history of Java before the arrival of the Dutch the reader begins to lose faith. He doubts the wisdom of devoting so much space to an obscure period, far removed from the goal which the author has in view. He demands that at least this period should be treated with the object of the book in mind. He finds a mass of conjectures on unessential details, and almost entire neglect of the great problems of native society: origin of the village group and government, early forms of land tenure, possible tribal influences. Village origins are dismissed in less space than is given to the ruins of Boeroe Boedoer.

Doubts as to the author's capacity become certainties when the narrative enters the period of Dutch rule. Most of the facts for the period from 1600 to 1800 are taken from half a dozen collections of voyages,

books with which a geographer would naturally be familiar, and useful sources also to the historian, but hardly the sources on which a history can be based. Let the American reader picture to himself the kind of history a foreigner would write of the British colonies in America, from Hakluyt, Kalm, Burnaby, Chastellux, etc., with an occasional reference to a modern writer, but disregarding some of the most important modern works and practically all of the colonial documents, and the weakness of this part of the book will be apparent. The standard modern history of this period, by M. L. van Deventer, is not mentioned. Lacking also is the indispensable book on the East India Company, by Klerk de Reus. Most serious of all is the neglect of the documents in De Jonge's collection. There are occasional references to this collection, but there is hardly a page of the book on which an error could not have been corrected, or an important fact supplied, if the documents had been scanned with any care.

The part dealing with the nineteenth century is no better. To enumerate the important sources which the author has failed to use would require too much space. It will be briefer, and to the wise it will be sufficient, to say that he quotes one book more than any other, and the one book is Money's *Java: or How to manage a Colony*. The result is a grotesque perversion of fact.

Concluding chapters give a description of existing conditions. Personal observations on the crops and some of the economic phenomena are of interest and value; reflections on the social and political organization are of little importance, because the author, to put it bluntly, does not know what he is talking about. He has not even a speaking acquaintance with the results of the great government investigations into native life, and because he did not know for what to look he might as well have been blindfolded much of the time. Of this as of other parts of the book it may be said that the author fails not only to collect the necessary facts from the scattered sources of information, and to sift the true from the false; he lacks, to all appearance, the general knowledge of human society which would direct his search, would enable him to appreciate the relative importance of different classes of facts, and would enable him to construct from his material a scientific statement of conditions. He talks much about native society, but if it were more than a name to him he must have devoted at least some attention to the land and labor relations on which it is based, of which, in fact, it largely consists. Of these native institutions he seems entirely ignorant. The problem of individual and communal land tenure is dismissed in a line.

We shall have many more books like this. Colonial questions have been so much in the public mind that there is an insistent demand for a colonial science, and many rise up to proclaim themselves its prophets. We shall have a real science of colonies when we apply to the study of

colonies the same principles which guide the search after truth in other subjects, and not before then.

CLIVE DAY.

The Great Days of Versailles. By G. F. BRADBY. (London: Smith Elder and Company; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1906. Pp. viii, 384.)

MR. BRADBY'S title indicates accurately the contents of his book. The great days of Versailles were in the reign of Louis XIV., and the court life of Versailles in the latter years of Louis's reign our author has described. The subject is not new, but probably it will never lose its charm. The court life of Louis XIV. is not one of the great chapters of history, but it is devoid neither of interest nor importance.

The sources from which information as to this period can be obtained are familiar, and Mr. Bradby has consulted them with care and with discrimination. The memoirs of Saint Simon will always be the most important, as it is the most interesting record of the later days of Louis XIV., and yet, as Mr. Bradby justly says, no writer needs to be read in a more critical spirit. In addition to the many volumes indited by the Duke of Saint Simon, are the memoirs of Dangeau, the letters of Madame de Maintenon and of the Princess Palatine, and the numerous other memoirs of the period. Mr. Bradby has consulted those of most value, and he has used his material with good judgment. Occasionally some anecdote is told, some incident related, which a severely critical historian might reject, but in this there is no great harm. A collection of social gossip, a history of court life, of pageantry and parade, does not require, perhaps, to be investigated in so rigid a spirit of criticism, as if different and more important fields of historical research were under examination.

In his book Mr. Bradby has told us much of the solemn splendor, of the minute ceremonial, which to those of this generation would seem so tedious, by which the existence of the great king was surrounded. He has described very fairly the character of the sovereign, who in many ways was an unusual man. Mr. Bradby does not exaggerate the foibles and frailties, the dullness and the limitations of the king, nor does he underestimate the elements of unusual strength that were found in that unusual combination. As he justly says, the character of Louis XIV. was "full of contradictions, beset with unexpected shallows and equally unexpected depths".

Apart from a description of the life of the court, of the splendors of Versailles, and its social etiquette, there is a detailed account of a few who were its most prominent figures. Some of them were wholly unprofitable and uninteresting, like Monsieur, Monseigneur, and the Duke of Berry. Others, like Madame de Maintenon, the Princess Palatine and the Duchess of Burgundy, would have been interesting to know when alive, and it is interesting to read of their careers. To all